



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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#### CHANGES IN FEDERAL LAND WITHDRAWAL REGULATIONS APPROVED

New safeguards to insure the fullest desirable multiple-use of public lands withdrawn for Federal purposes are provided by changes in regulations announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The amendments would meet requirements created by the Act of February 28, 1958, which provides for congressional action on Defense Department withdrawals of 5,000 acres or more. That law also provides for the management of wildlife resources on such lands.

The law provides a way, for instance, of permitting hunting and fishing on land set aside primarily for training troops. State and Federal hunting and fishing laws would apply to such areas. The changes put administrative aspects of the law into effect.

The new rules are designed to quicken decisions on other applications for land covered by Government withdrawal requests. When a Federal agency asks that land in public domain be set aside for the agency's use, the application imposes a segregative effect on the land. That is, final action must be deferred on other applications pending for different use of the same land. For example, an applicant seeking an oil and gas lease, or a grazing lease or some other permit, could not receive it if a Federal withdrawal application had isolated it from the normal usage of public land.

The revisions provide that if part of the land involved in a withdrawal application is later eliminated from the request, the Bureau of Land Management may then go ahead and process any pending applications which had been suspended automatically by the withdrawal request.

Under the changes, the privilege of filing applications for withdrawals is limited to Federal agencies and instrumentalities.

The amendments also furnish technical procedures to be followed in applying for withdrawals. Review procedures are spelled out.

The new regulations were proposed and published in the Federal Register on November 17, 1958. The public had 30 days to submit any comments. The final regulations have been adopted with only minor changes, the most important of which would require the preparation of maps to accompany applications for withdrawals over 5,000 acres. The complete text of the new rules were published in the Federal Register on October 2.

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